

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 211595 TOSEC 110014

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 13759 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN LISBON LUXEMBOURG MADRID OSLO PARIS
ROME STOCKHOLM THE HAGUE NATO EC BRUSSELS VIENNA
05 SEPT

QUTE

UNCLAS LONDON 13759

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST MEETING ON PORTUGAL

1. THE COMMITTEE OF FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY WITH
DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM IN PORTUGAL (TO GIVE ITS FILL
TITLE), HELD ITS FIRST MEETING AS SCHEDULED IN LONDON
TODAY (SEPTEMBER 5) AND ELECTED WILLY BRANDT AS CHAIRMAN.
THE OTHER MEMBERS ARE HAROLD WILSON, OLOF PALME, JOOP
DEN UYL, BRUNO KREISKY, AND FRANCOIS MITTERRAND. ALL
BUT KREISKY WERE PRESENT AT TODAY'S MEETING, AS WAS

MARIO SOARES.

2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE MEETING, IT WAS
ANNOUNCED THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING
ACTIVITIES:
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1) VISITS TO PORTUGAL BY THE COMMITTEE OR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR CONTACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, P.S., AND OTHER POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS.

2) INVITATIONS TO POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS IN

PORTUGAL TO VISIT OTHER COUNTRIES IN WESTERN EUROPE.

3) STIMULATION OF SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGNS FOR DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM IN PORTUGAL. IN THIS CONNECTION A SPECIAL PORTUGAL DAY MIGHT BE ORGANIZED IN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

4) ACTION IN GOVERNMENTS, PARLIAMENTS AND PUBLIC OPINION FOR TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC AID TO PORTUGAL.

3. IT WAS FURTHER ANNOUNCED THAT THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE COMMITTEE:

1) TO WORK FOR:

A) DEMOCRACY (DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS INCLUDING FREE AND GENERAL ELECTIONS)

O) FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION

C) THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH A DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, AND FOR IT TO FUNCTION FREELY

D) THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALISM

2) TO WORK TO PREVENT AN ISOLATION OF PORTUGAL.

4. THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO PURSUE ITS AIMS IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN EUROPE AND THE WIDER WORLD.

5. IN RESPONSE TO THE ENSUING QUESTIONS, PRIME MINISTER WILSON ESTIMATED THAT THE PCP RECEIVED FOUR MILLION POUNDS STERLING A MONTH FROM FOREIGN SOURCES.

6. WILLY BRANDT STRESSED THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS TRYING TO ENSURE THE FLOWERING OF DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL; THAT IT WAS NOT INTERFERING IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND WOULD NOT LIKE OTHERS TO EITHER. THE ISSUE, HE SAID, WAS DECISIVE FOR THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY, NOT ONLY IN PORTUGAL, BUT IN ALL OF EUROPE.

7. SOARES SAID THAT PS WAS NOT SEEKING FUNDS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, AND NOTED THAT EVEN WHEN IT WAS UNDERGROUND,

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IT TRIED TO BE INDEPENDENT. BUT PORTUGAL NEEDED EUROPEAN SUPPORT TO MEET ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE INFLOW OF REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA. AID TO PORTUGAL, HE SAID, SHOULD NOT HAVE POLITICAL STRINGS ATTACHED.

8. SOARES ALSO OBSERVED THAT STRONG SEPARATIST MOVEMENT IN THE AZORES IS ENCOURAGED BY REACTIONARY FORCES THERE. HE NOTED THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THE AZORES HAVE RELATIONS IN AMERICA WHO ARE SCARED BY THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO CONTROL PORTUGAL. PS FEELS IT IS IMPORTANT, HE SAID, TO GUARANTEE SOME ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL AUTONOMY TO AZORES, BUT AZORES MUST REMAIN CONNECTED TO PORTUGAL. HE ANNOUNCED THAT PS WAS BEGINNING A CAMPAIGN AMONG

PORTUGUESE-AMERICANS TO SHOW THAT THE QUICKEST WAY TO
ESTABLISH COMMUNIST RULE IN PORTUGAL WOULD BE TO PRESS
FOR INDEPENDENCE FOR AZORES.

9. AT OPENING OF PRESS CONFERENCE, BEFORE FOREGOING
DISCUSSION OF PORTUGAL WAS INITIATED, MITTERRAND
ANNOUNCED THAT COMMITTEE AGREED THAT A DEMARCHE SHOULD
BE MADE TO MADRID URGING THAT BASQUES CONDEMNED TO DEATH
SHOULD NOT BE EXECUTED.

RICHARDSON UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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